road lights and not street lights. It was not usual to provide lights for P.W.D. roads except in special cases. As the road belonged to the P.W.D., a concessional rate, which was being allowed in the case of all departments, was charged in that case also. The object of extending the concession to the P.W.D. roads was to lighten the burden on the Road Fund from which this charge was being met. Since the resolution would amount to extending the concessional rates to municipalities also, he said that the matter would have to be examined in detail. He added, at the same time, that it was purely a departmental matter and Government had not made any definite rule in regard to it.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO stated that the municipality had already passed a resolution agreeing to the candle-power being reduced, with a view to keeping down the recurring charges.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied that the request would be favourably considered, if the same was submitted to Government through the Deputy Commissioner.

In view of this reply of Government the resolution, was withdrawn by leave of the House.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Levy of an Acreage Cess in lieu of Tank Maintenance Work by Raiyats.

The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina S. P. Rajagopalachari) mentioned that Government desired to take the opinion of the Assembly in regard to a certain important matter, *viz.*, maintenance of major and minor tanks.

In regard to this question, he explained, the rules required that all the concerned raiyats should do maintenance work, *viz.*, earth-work, silt-clearing, etc. But several members had brought to notice that this work was being neglected by the raiyats. In the case of some special tanks like those of Kadaba and Hoskote, in lieu of labour, a maintenance cess of eight annas to one rupee was being levied from each of the concerned raiyats. The Public Works Department utilised that income for doing the maintenance work in those places. Similarly, the Government had a proposal to levy a cess for the maintenance of all major tanks and important minor tanks, credit the collections to a separate fund, and utilise it for looking after the tanks. This would mean that instead of manual labour a money contribution in the form of a cess should be paid by the raiyats. The speaker stated that Government would be glad to know the opinion of the Assembly on this proposal.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA enquired whether some of the raiyats under a tank would be free to contribute their share of the manual labour, even when the others preferred to pay the proposed cess in lieu of such labour.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied in the affirmative and said that such people would be exempted from paying the cess.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR was opposed to the levy of a separate compulsory cess for maintenance of tanks, on the ground that the raiyat was already over-burdened with taxation. He was of opinion that the subordinate officers of the Revenue Department were largely responsible for neglect on the part of the raiyats in the matter of tank maintenance. Very much depended upon the efficiency of the officers and the attitude they adopted towards the raiyats.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI asked if it was not due also to the raiyats' indifference.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR replied that even if it were so, the remedy did not lie in penalising them by the levy of a compulsory tax, and that the better thing for the officers to do would be to coax the raiyats and get the work done. While on this topic, he cited the case of two hamlets very close to Bangalore City, named Hosakerehalli and Kadariguppe, which were in a very insanitary condition, with neither roads nor drains nor anything else which would do credit to a well cared for village. The pity was that no officer had even cared to notice them. If only the Amildar or Sanitary Inspector had

camped there and evinced some interest in improving the roads and drains, the defects could have been set right long ago.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Mr. K. V. Anantaraman) enquired if Kadariguppe was not an inam village.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR replied that it was, but that Hosakerehalli was a government village. His point was that the officers must infuse in the raiyats the necessary enthusiasm for undertaking tank maintenance work voluntarily and that the idea of levying a tax in lieu thereof would only result in default on the part of the raiyats in respect of one more levy. If only Government issued a circular to the officers concerned that they must enlist the co-operation of the raiyats in getting through the maintenance work, the need for levying any compulsory tax would not arise.

Mr. L. VEMA REDDY was also of the opinion that the levy of an additional cess would act as a great hardship on the raiyats. The Land Revenue Rules enjoined on the Amildars to inspect all the tanks within their jurisdiction every year and make a note whether each one of them was properly maintained or not. If the officers had paid any heed to these rules, maintenance work would not have been neglected by the raiyats for years together. According to the existing rules, wherever the raiyats failed to do maintenance work, the same could be got done by the Public Works Department and the cost recovered from the raiyats. Even that was not done. He agreed with the previous speaker that the proper maintenance of tanks depended very much upon the interest evinced by the local revenue authorities If only the Amildars had paid adequate attention to that part of the work, the tanks would not have been reduced to their present deplorable condition. Moreover, the cost of execution of any work by the Public Works Department would as a rule be unduly heavy and it would be unfair to make the raiyats bear the entire cost. He therefore suggested that arrangements be made to insist on all the raiyats contributing labour.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH enquired if, instead of thinking of burdening the raiyats with one more cess, it would not be better to ear-mark the income derived by auctioning the fishing rights in each tank, and also the *hulbanni* revenue, for tank maintenance purposes.

Mr. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied that the amount derived from both the sources would not be sufficient for the purpose.

Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG enquired if a portion of the irrigation cess fund could not be utilised for supplementing the income from the said sources.

Mr. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied that that fund was intended only for tank repairs. He added that there was not much money at the credit of that fund either.

Mr. Y. V. MUNISWAMI IYER said that in olden days the Amildars used to inspect all the tanks at the time of *jamabandi* and tank maintenance work used to be attended to by the raiyats themselves under the supervision of the Maramat Engineer attached to each taluk. He suggested that that system be revived instead of the work being entrusted to the Public Works Department.

Mr. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied that the work would not be entrusted to the Public Works Department except in cases in which tanks had deteriorated hopelessly as a result of continuous neglect for several years. He was sorry that the rules in respect of tank maintenance were being observed more in the breach than in the observance and that consequently, several tanks remained in disrepair and vast extents of fertile lands were lying fallow.

Mr. H. K. MADIAH said that the Government had brought forward the present proposal with the best of intentions and in the interests of the raiyats themselves. In olden days the raiyats had great respect for authority and it was not difficult for the local officers to get maintenance work attended to by the raiyats. But latterly, that respect was not much in evidence, and

what was worse, the raiyats had grown indifferent to collective interests and neglected joint responsibilities. Party feelings were rife in every village and it was impossible to expect all villagers to co-operate. The well-to-do raiyat was the worst sinner in this respect. He therefore strongly supported the Government's suggestion for levying a compulsory cess.

Mr. BALE GOWDA endorsed the views of the previous speaker.

Mr. M. RAME GOWDA said that the village officers were responsible for the neglect of tank maintenance work. Because, as soon as a tank was restored, it was the duty of the patel to prepare the *hanchikepatti* or the turns in which the villagers were expected to contribute labour, and acquaint the raiyats about the same. This was done, if at all, in a haphazard way and hence all the trouble. If the raiyats' responsibility could be individually fixed, any default on the part of a raiyat could be taken suitable notice of, such as by debiting the cost of the labour, etc.

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA pointed out that under the existing practice, the maintenance work in respect of all major tanks was being attended to by government agency and as such it would be unfair to transfer that responsibility to the raiyats. Seeing that a separate irrigation cess was being recovered from the agriculturists, he said there was no justification for another levy in the shape of a maintenance cess.

Mr. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA was of opinion that the remedy for the existing state of affairs lay in compelling the raiyats to contribute labour. If a particular raiyat could not contribute labour, the work could be got done by the Engineering Department and the cost recovered from the raiyat.

Mr. DONDE GOWDA said that the raiyat was leading an easy-going life for four months in the year, for want of occupation, and if he was relieved of even the tank maintenance work, it would only make him more indolent. If, however, the system of voluntary labour could not be enforced, he said that the fishing and *hulbanni* rights in each tract might be auctioned and the cost of maintenance met from the proceeds thereof.

Continuing, he pointed out that during the deputy commissionership of Mr. Bowring, there used to be a separate tank inspector who used to collect together all the raiyats and make them attend to earth-work, etc. He suggested that that system be revived instead of the existing burden of the raiyat being added to.

The PRESIDENT said that the Chief Engineer was proposing to have a separate engineering officer to look after well-boring, panchayat and tank works, etc., and if the appointment of such an officer was sanctioned, he hoped that the general public would extend their best co-operation to see that the works were carried out in an efficient manner in future.

RESOLUTIONS—*concld.*

Resolution No. 6.

Reduction of Hissa Fees.

Messrs. RAME GOWDA (Chintamani Taluk); **R. B. SIDDABASAVARADHYA** (Chintamani Municipality); and all the other members of Kolar District.

On behalf of the movers, **Mr. N. SONNAPPA** moved the following resolution :—

"Many takrars are now being received as *hissa* stones have not been properly put up in taluks where *hissa* operations have been completed. In such cases, fresh fees are being levied. As the levy of such fees is excessive, this Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that a fixed fee of 8 annas per survey number, irrespective of the number of *hissas* contained therein, be collected and the *hissa* stones correctly fixed up."

In doing so, he said that the resolution was self-explanatory and that what was desired was that the existing rate of Rs. 3, which was excessive, should be reduced to 8 annas per survey number.

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER (Mr. K. V. Anantaraman) explained that there were two kinds of survey measurements : one was a preliminary survey connected with the Record of Rights operations and the other one, a *hissa* measurement. Formerly, a fee of Rs. 2